



Relationship between daily suicide counts and temperature in England and Wales

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Abstract:

BACKGROUND: Seasonal fluctuation in suicide has been observed in many populations. High temperature may contribute to this, but the effect of short-term fluctuations in temperature on suicide rates has not been studied. **AIMS:** To assess the relationship between daily temperature and daily suicide counts in England and Wales between 1 January 1993 and 31 December 2003 and to establish whether heatwaves are associated with increased mortality from suicide. **METHOD:** Time-series regression analysis was used to explore and quantify the relationship between daily suicide counts and daily temperature. The impact of two heatwaves on suicide was estimated. **RESULTS:** No spring or summer peak in suicide was found. Above 18 degrees C, each 1 degrees C increase in mean temperature was associated with a 3.8 and 5.0% rise in suicide and violent suicide respectively. Suicide increased by 46.9% during the 1995 heatwave, whereas no change was seen during the 2003 heat wave. **CONCLUSIONS:** There is increased risk of suicide during hot weather.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1192/bjp.bp.106.031948>

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Solar Radiation, Temperature

Temperature: Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Europe

European Region/Country: European Country

Other European Country : England;Wales

Health Impact: ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury, Mental Health/Stress

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Mood Disorder

Resource Type: ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified